Deposits by Asians in BCCI

4289. SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that Asians (of Indian origin) in U.K. who had their life's saving deposited in the BCCI are now facing tremendous difficulties at the hands of the liquidators;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to intervene in the matter to help them out; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (c). Reserve Bank of India have reported that they have no information that the Asians of Indian origin in U.K. who have their deposits in BCCI are facing difficulties at the hands of the liquidators.

Irregularities in disposal of confiscated goods

4290. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether irregularities in the valuation and disposal of the imported luxury goods confiscated by the customs to be sold at market price by the Bombay Collectorate in 1986 have come to light;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether any inquiry into the matter has been made by Government;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken against the persons found guilty; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to streamline the procedure so as to ensure that such irregularities do not recur in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (e) The Hon'ble M.P. is presumably referring to the inspection report of 1986 on Bombay Custom House which indicated certain irregularities in respect of accounting and disposal of confiscated goods. The final compliance report of Bombay Customs House is still awaited.

Wage escalation claim

4291. SHRI ABDUL SAMAD SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the wage escalation report in respect of cast steel manganese crossing manufactured by some private companies, namely M/s. Bhartiya Electric and Steel Company and M/s Hindustan Development Corporation was revised by the Cost Accounts Branch of his Ministry;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the wage escalation amount has gone up to 10 times to give benefit to the above named two private companies;

(c) whether this revision was done due to revision in wage escalation factor instantanecusly or under pressure from the private parties;

(d) what are the details thereof and who were the officers involved in this revision; and

(e) what steps have been taken by Government to investigate into the matter and take action against the concerned persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE): (a) to (c). Wage escalation claims are regulated by the Railway Board in accordance with the terms and conditions of the contracts. The contracts for cast manganese steel crossings provided for book examination of the claims by the Cost Accounts Branch. While examining the first wage escalation claim (Bhartiya Electric & Steel Co.), the Cost Accounts Branch worked out the escalation factor at 0.0075 per cent. and 0.0079 per cent. in respect of two types of crossings and reported to the Railway Board. The latter clarified

that the escalation factor applicable was 0.1 per cent. and advised the Cost Accounts Branch to verify the wage escalation claims on the basis of the wage escalation factor of 0.1 per cent.

In this connection, Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1829 answered on 02-08-91 by the Ministry of Railways is also appended. (See Annexure below).

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Hike in the rate of escalation

1829. SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the rate of escalation at the rate of point zero one present to be paid to M/s Bharat Electric and Steel Company Limited and M/s. Hindustan Development Corporation for manufacturing of CMS crossings (as agreed to in theif agreement with Railway Board) has been raised to much higher per cent.

(b) if so, what was the enhanced rate and the extra amount invested in its payment; and

(c) the reasons for making payment at the enhanced rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) The Agreement provides for rate of escalation of 0.1 per cent which has not been raised.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Seniority list of Deputy Director (Cost) in Indian Cost Accounts Serivce

4292. DR. FAGUNI RAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) when the provision for direct recruitment for the post of Deputy Director (Cost) in the Indian Cost and Accounts Service was made;

(b) what is the number of times direct recruitment has been done and whether it will be continued in future also;

(c) whether any seniority list of Deputy Director (Cost) has been drawn after such direct recruitment; and

(d) if so, what are the names and ranking of various officers in the seniority list as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE): (a) The provision for direct recruitment to the post of Deputy Director (Cost) in the Indian Cost Accounts Service was made in 1987.

(b) Direct recruitment has been made once and is proposed to be continued.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Proposal to wind up Economic Intelligence Bureau

4293. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a proposal under Government's consideration to wind up the Economic Intelligence Bureau; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and also the expenditure incurred on it, annually?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) There is no proposal under consideration to wind up the Central Economic Intelligence Bureau.